

Message Text

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TAGS: BEXP, BENC, ETRN, UY

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: DEEPWATER PORT STATUS REPORT

REF: 75 MONTEVIDEO 271, STATE A-506

FOR COMMERCE/MEPD

1. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, US CONSULTING FIRM OF FREDERICK R. HARRIS HAS NOW COMPLETED IDB FINANCED PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY OF DEEPWATER PORT IN URUGUAY. TERMS OF STUDY WERE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES FROM MONTEVIDEO TO BRAZILIAN BORDER (REFTEL. A DRAFT REPORT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE GOU AND THE FINAL REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED SOON. REPORT ALLEGEDLY RECOMMENDS TWO POSSIBLE SITES ON THE ATLANTIC IN ROCHA PROVINCE BUT CAUTIONS THAT THE PORT WOULD ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF IT WERE TO SERVE AS A REGIONAL CENTER.

2. COMMENT: THIS CONSTITUTES ANOTHER STEP IN GOU'S CONSIDERATION OF A DEEPWATER PORT. WHETHER ARGENTINA OR URUGUAY OR NEITHER BUILDS A DEEPWATER PORT STILL APPEARS TO BE AN OPEN QUESTION. URUGUAY HOWEVER CONTINUES TO PURSUE ITS STUDY. AT THIS POINT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT URUGUAY COULD UNDERTAKE AN INVESTMENT OF THE SIZE REQUIRED WITHOUT BOTH INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND A COMMITMENT FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO USE THE PORT, A CONCLUSION APPARENTLY SHARED BY THE STUDY. ANY ACTUAL DECISION APPEARS TO BE SOME TIME OFF.

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